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Item 99 (b) of the provisional agenda*
General and complete disarmament

Further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the seabed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/65/150.

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I. Introduction

1. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/116 O of 15 December 1989, entitled "Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof", the relevant operative paragraphs of which read as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "...
>
> "8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report by 1992, and every three years thereafter until the fourth Review Conference is convened, on technological developments relevant to the Treaty and to the verification of compliance with the Treaty, including dual-purpose technologies for peaceful and specified military ends; in carrying out this task he should draw from official sources and from contributions by States parties to the Treaty and may use the assistance of appropriate expertise;
>
> "9. *Urges* all States parties to the Treaty to assist the Secretary-General accordingly by providing information and drawing his attention to suitable sources."

2. Pursuant to the request contained in paragraph 9 of the resolution, a note verbale was sent to States parties to the Treaty inviting them to provide information on the subject. Replies have been received from Bulgaria and Qatar and are reproduced in section II below. Additional replies received from States parties will be issued as addenda to the present report.

3. The Secretary-General wishes to point out that the information submitted to him by States parties to the Treaty does not provide sufficient official material for him to report on the subject matter on the basis indicated in paragraph 8 of the resolution.

II. Information received from Governments

A. Bulgaria

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[21 April 2010]

The Republic of Bulgaria does not possess any of the weapons stipulated in article I of the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof, and therefore there have been no technological developments relevant to the Treaty and to the verification of compliance with the Treaty, including dual-purpose technologies for peaceful and specified military ends.

B. Qatar

[Original: English]
[1 April 2010]

The State of Qatar is cognizant of the benefit that humanity can gain from progress in exploring the seabed and the oceans and their peaceful use for the common good.

Likewise, the State of Qatar is of the view that the prevention of any nuclear arms race in the seabed and the oceans is likely to maintain world peace, ease international tensions and strengthen friendly relations among nations.

The State of Qatar is also of the view that the Treaty constitutes an important step towards a treaty on complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. The State of Qatar is hopeful that nuclear countries will continue their negotiations in order to achieve this goal. It is convinced that the Treaty is in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as international law, without prejudice to the freedom of the high seas.